



Office of the Attorney General — John K. Van de Kamp

# News Release

**Contacts:** Sigrid Bathen  
Press Secretary  
Sam Haynes  
Information Officer

**Telephone:** 916/324-5439  
(Sacramento)  
213/736-2298  
(Los Angeles)

**Offices:** 1515 K Street, Suite 511  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
3580 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

May 10, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SACRAMENTO -- Attorney General John K. Van de Kamp today announced the creation of a commission to study crime and violence caused by prejudice against minority groups.

The Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence has been created, Van de Kamp said, to make a systematic study of crimes and violence motivated primarily by prejudice against members of minority communities -- Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, religious groups, lesbians, gay men, the elderly, the disabled, etc. -- and to make recommendations on how to deal with such incidents.

"The 1982 Governor's Task Force on Civil Rights found that violence based on discriminatory motivation is a pervasive fact of life in many communities," Van de Kamp said in a letter to commission members. The commission is being formed, he said, to "monitor and raise public awareness of incidents of this nature and to make recommendations to deal with this problem."

The commission is expected to hold its first meeting in June and to meet seven or eight times over the

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next two years in various locations throughout the state. The commission is expected to make annual reports, with interim reports as needed.

The commission members have been selected on the basis of their experience with these kinds of issues and their ability to represent the communities and organizations affected by such incidents.

The commission will be chaired by Monsignor William J. Barry, former chair of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, Los Angeles. Other members of the commission are:

Mr. Joaquin Avila  
President and General Counsel, Mexican  
American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
San Francisco

Ms. Irma Castro  
Executive Director, Chicano Federation of  
San Diego County  
San Diego

Mr. Richard Chavez  
Founder and Executive Director, Chavez and  
Associates Institute  
Member, California Governor's Committee on  
Employment of the Handicapped  
Member, California Steering Committee on  
Affirmative Action  
City of Commerce

Mr. Thomas F. Coleman  
Former Co-chair, National Committee for  
Sexual Civil Liberties  
Glendale

Mr. Vincent Harvier  
Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of  
California  
Former Tribal President, Quechan Indian  
Tribe  
Sacramento

Rev. Will L. Herzfeld  
Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Board of Directors and Western Regional  
Vice-President, National Conference of  
Black Churchmen  
Oakland

Mr. David Kasoy  
Executive Board Member, Los Angeles Chapter,  
American-Jewish Committee  
Los Angeles

Ms. Janet Levy  
Former Director, California State Department  
of Aging  
Sacramento

Hon. Alice Lytle  
Judge of the Sacramento County Municipal  
Court  
Former Chair, Governor's Task Force on  
Civil Rights  
Sacramento

Mr. John W. Mack  
President, Los Angeles Urban League  
Los Angeles

Ms. Leticia Quezada  
President, Comision Femenil de Los Angeles  
Board of Directors, Mexican American Legal  
Defense and Educational Fund  
Los Angeles

Hon. Armando O. Rodriguez  
Judge of the Fresno County Municipal Court  
Member, California Council on Criminal  
Justice  
Former California State President, Mexican-  
American Political Association  
Fresno

Dr. Hazel Russell  
Board of Directors, NAACP  
Riverside

Mr. John J. Saito  
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest  
District, Japanese American Citizens League  
Los Angeles

Ms. Diane C. Yu  
Board of Directors, Asian American Bar  
Association  
Oakland

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The commission will be assisted by Deputy Attorney General James Ching and other staff from the Attorney General's office under the coordination of Marty Mercado, chief of the Attorney General's Office of Community and Consumer Affairs, (916) 324-7859.

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Press Secretary  
(916) 324-5439  
1515 K Street, Suite 511  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Los Angeles Press Contact  
(213) 736-2298  
3580 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

April 17, 1986

SAN FRANCISCO — Attorney General John K. Van de Kamp today said he would propose civil rights legislation to impose criminal penalties for hate violence directed against minorities and gays.

Responding to a major recommendation of the Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence, the Attorney General also said his office would develop legislation to strengthen existing laws enabling victims of such violence to gain civil relief in cases where criminal remedies are inappropriate or unavailable.

The two recommendations are among 38 contained in the commission's final report presented to the Attorney General today in San Francisco.

"This has been a week of high international drama," Van de Kamp said at a news conference to announce the commission recommendations. "The religious and ethnic hatreds which have terrorized the Middle East for so many years have finally led us into military action against Libya."

"Those events may seem far removed from California," he added. "But they have their roots in passions that are no strangers to this state. We have only to look at our newspapers to see that hatred and hate violence are very much at home in California."

He cited numerous incidents of threats and violence against members of ethnic and religious minorities as well as cases of "gay-bashing" in California.

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"Last month in Los Angeles, the University of Southern California suspended a fraternity and sorority for what the Examiner called an 'anti-Semitic mob outburst'," he said. "In San Francisco a wave of gay-bashing born of the A.I.D.S. hysteria has made front page news around the state and around the nation."

He noted that the "gay-bashing" incidents included attacks in San Francisco and the beating death of a gay minister in Stockton just two months ago.

"In Concord, a city that has been racked with racial controversy in recent months," he added, "a 23-year-old man was convicted last month for attacking and stabbing two black men outside a local bar. He was wearing Ku Klux Klan robes at the time."

Van de Kamp said similar acts against Hispanics and Asians "are also commonplace both here and across the country."

The Attorney General formed the 16-member commission in May of 1984, in response to the murder of a Chinese-American, Vincent Chin, in Detroit and similar cases of hate violence in California.

"I quickly discovered that no one had any hard data on the subject," he said. "No separate statistics were kept on these types of crimes. There was no way to know how serious the situation might be."

The commission was directed to obtain more accurate information as to the extent of such violence, develop guidelines for reporting incidents, and encourage measures to halt similar occurrences.

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"We have no shortage of the practitioners of hate violence here at home," Van de Kamp said. "That is a reality which contradicts the ideals and the promise of a nation built of immigrants. It is a stain we must remove from the fabric of life in this the most diverse state in the most diverse nation in the world."

Van de Kamp said the Attorney General's office will develop legislation to enact a comprehensive civil rights statute with criminal penalties "to deter and punish crimes of hate violence."

The commission also recommended major improvements in the Ralph Civil Rights Act, which provides civil relief for victims of hate violence in cases where criminal remedies are inappropriate or unavailable. Van de Kamp said several of the most important changes have been incorporated into S.B. 1961, sponsored by the Attorney General's Office and carried by Sen. Diane Watson, D-Los Angeles.

Van de Kamp said the Attorney General's Office has also updated a handbook on "Unlawful Discrimination," which details the remedies available under state and federal law to victims of discrimination. In addition, the Attorney General's office is working with the commission to prepare uniform guidelines and procedures for reporting hate violence under provisions of S.B. 2080.

He said other commission recommendations are being addressed administratively. He said he would personally present the report's findings next week to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

"In short," he added, "I will thoroughly review each of the 38 recommendations and take every possible step to protect the citizens of this state from bigotry and violence."

To gather its material, the commission held public meetings and hearings throughout California. It was chaired by Monsignor William J. Barry of Los Angeles and coordinated by Marty Mercado, chief of the Attorney General's Office of Community and Consumer Affairs.

A full list of the commission members and a summary of their findings and recommendations is attached. For further information or a copy of the report, contact Mercado at (916) 324-7859.

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# News Advisory

Les Johnson  
Chief Public Information Officer  
Sam Haynes  
Information Officer

(916) 324-5439  
1515 K Street, Suite 511  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Los Angeles Press Contact  
(213) 736-2298  
3580 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

contact: Duane Peterson  
Assistant to the Attorney General  
(213) 736-2298

October 13, 1987

## ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HATE CRIMES COMMISSION TO MEET

LOS ANGELES -- Attorney General John Van de Kamp will hold a press availability following a meeting with his Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence on Friday, October 16 in his eighth floor conference room at 3580 Wilshire Blvd. The Commission meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by the press availability at 11:00.

At the meeting, Van de Kamp will receive a report chronicling the Commission's implementation of its final report issued last year. Actions taken to date include:

- Enactment of a comprehensive civil rights statute targetting hate crimes,
- Pending legislation to create a central data base to collect statistics on hate crimes,
- Creation of human relations commissions throughout the state to investigate and prevent hate crimes,
- Consideration by the state Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training on how to better train law enforcement in the investigation of hate crimes.

# # # # #

## Cal blacks complain of racism

By John Lynn Smith  
Bee Staff Writer

**BERKELEY** — A group of black students at the University of California, Berkeley, presented a 14-point list of demands Tuesday to stem what they cited as cases of institutional and overt racism on campus.

In an hourlong meeting with Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman and other administrators, members of the African American Students Association presented demands that, among other things, call for:

- A high-level racial grievance commission to investigate allegations of racism.
- An ethnic studies graduation requirement.
- Formal implementation of a graduate affirmative action plan to improve the potential pool of future black faculty.
- Increased hiring and granting of tenure for black faculty.
- Creation of a graduate doctoral degree program in Afro-American studies.
- A financial aid appeals board.
- Free use of campus facilities for black student organizations raising funds for scholarship programs.
- More aggressive recruitment of black students as residence hall coordinators and resident assistants.

Assistant Chancellor John Cummins described the closed meeting as productive and informative. "We obviously are concerned about any incident of racism and are appreciative they brought it to our attention."

"We have not been dragging our feet," said Watson Leetsch, vice chancellor for undergraduate affairs.

The students asked the chancellor to answer by next Monday, saying they wanted to give him time to make a "well-thought-out" and rea-



Bee file

Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman heard black students' case.

soned response," said student Michael Berry.

The demands grew out of what students cited as increased cases of overt racism on campus coupled with their sense that the university was too slow to respond to black student concerns.

"It's (overt racism) been increasing in the last year," said Michael Stoll, a senior at Berkeley and president of the group. "There have been dead chickens in the dorms with signs that said 'Death to niggers' and there was a statement on our office door saying that we should be strung up because we're bush men."

A more insidious form of racism is occurring in classes, students said.

"In my class as a freshman, two-thirds of the faculty are white males and there were no Third World authors on my reading lists," said freshman Kimberly Papillon.

Moreover, students noted that only a tiny percentage of the Berkeley faculty is black. The combination of such factors creates alienation, said black students, adding that the high percentage of black student dropouts at Berkeley is linked to alienation.

# Bay Area 'skinheads' join Klan ceremony in Modesto

By Lisa Lapin  
Mercury News Staff Writer

MODESTO — A small group of "skinheads" from the Bay Area gathered in an alfalfa field on the outskirts of town Saturday night to join in a Ku Klux Klan cross-lighting ceremony.

Sheriff's officials said it was the first time they had seen skinhead teen-agers from the Bay Area at a Klan ceremony in Modesto. Thirteen youths showed up representing clubs from Palo Alto, Turlock and Hollister.

At least four of the teen-agers, who wore knee-length boots and suspenders and had shaved heads, were initiated into the Klan late Saturday.

"First, I was a white-power sympathizer, then I got into throwing literature, now I'm ready for a bigger organization," said Mike, 19, a South Bay skinhead who planned to join the Klan. "I've believed in white power since I was 13. I was sick of being bashed. In my town, you either knew how to run or knew how to fight."

While a group of about 20 local Klansmen gathered for a chicken dinner — of only white meat — the skinheads prepared for their first ceremony.

Some nailed planks into a 20-foot cross, then

wrapped gasoline-soaked burlap bags around the structure, which was sunk into the ground. Others made the torches that later were carried in a circle and thrown at the base of the cross for the lighting.

"We're here to show out solidarity," said Dave Mazzella, 19, of Mountain View. He has been recruiting South Bay teen-agers into the white supremacist movement.

The cross-burning, held behind the house of klansman Bill Albers, was by invitation only. Stanislaus County sheriff's deputies observed the activities from across an irrigation canal.

"They talk a lot about overthrowing the U.S. government and declaring war on Zionists," said a sheriff's deputy who has followed Albers' Klan gatherings for several years. "It's a lot of rhetoric, but we have to listen to what they are saying and keep an eye on them."

In San Jose last summer, a 54-year-old black woman said she had been held and threatened by four teen-age skinheads. A 19-year-old man has been arrested and charged with attempted robbery and false imprisonment, but others allegedly involved in the incident could not be identified. Two teen-agers at Saturday's Klan rally said they were involved in the assault. They refused to give their names.

# Racism charges threaten Cal's liberal reputation

By John Lynn Smith -  
Bee Staff Writer

**BERKELEY** — The University of California, with a reputation as a bastion of liberalism and diversity, has been rocked by charges of racism in the last two weeks.

It began with a student-held press conference and was followed by the African American Student Association presenting a list of 14 demands to Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman.

At a rally Friday, leaders of the organization threatened to shut down the campus to show Heyman they are serious about fighting racism. Students said if the university meets

the demands, it could relax tensions that have escalated into racial taunts and name-calling.

Berkeley officials said that Heyman, who earlier this year wrote a letter to the campus community saying the work is under way to restore "Cal's historic commitment to civility, tolerance and understanding," could respond as early as Monday.

"Racism didn't disappear after the '60s," Randolph Bromery, a University of Massachusetts geophysics professor told the Chronicle of Higher Education in the aftermath of racial unrest at the Amherst cam-

pus this year. "It's latent, like a cancer. You just have to provide the right conditions and it'll reappear."

And this year it has:

- At the University of Michigan, where a campus disc jockey told racial jokes on the air.

- At the Citadel, where a black cadet was taunted by five white students wearing sheets and carrying a charred paper cross.

- At the University of Wisconsin, where black students protested a white fraternity's name of a black with a bone through his nose.

- At Northern Illinois University, where people entering a campus center to hear the Rev. Jesse Jackson speak were greeted by racial slurs from white students.

But racism at Berkeley?

Kimberly Papillon, a black freshman at UC Berkeley, said she was surprised to find what she calls racism on the campus. "This is supposed to be one of the most diverse campuses the nation," she said.

It is. Black student enrollment accounts for 15 percent of the freshman class this year, up from 5.4 percent in 1981. When combined with other minorities, the freshman class at Berkeley is more than 50 percent minority this year. Some professors and administrators speculate that racial tensions are increasing because the campus finally is beginning to

reflect a more multiethnic society.

"Our students are the sons and daughters of California citizens, and we get the same expressions on campus as in society," said UC President David Gardner. "The university will contend with the same pressure points the so-

ciety deals with in general."

While no university official will say whether there is a problem with racism, they are quick to say they are concerned even with the mere perception that there is a problem.

Assistant Chancellor John Cummins said the university is concerned about the charges and wants to address the issues raised by the students.

Gardner said he wants to deal with the complaints before they get out of hand.

Nonetheless, some students and faculty members contend racism is alive at UC Berkeley.

"Hostility and racism raise their head too often at Berkeley, making the campus environment uncomfortable for many black students," a campus-appointed task force on black graduation rates reported earlier this year. "Students report that the daily impact of these two factors decrease motivation and increase black student's risk of attrition."

Senior Michael Stoll, president of the campus' African American Students Association, said he believes racism has been increasing over the past year. "There have been dead chickens in the dorms with signs that said 'Death to niggers,' and there was a statement on our door saying that we should be strung up because we are bush men."

Campus police say they have no reports of racial incidents, but students suggest the absence of figures is misleading.

"What are you going to do when someone calls you a nigger," Michael Berry, a black third-year law student asked rhetorically. "Go to the police?"

"Black people have a special, historical relationship with police," Berry said and do not typically turn to the police for support.

Students also charge that there is a lack of black residential advisers in the dormitories despite the increase in the numbers of black students; that white professors tend not to call on black students in class; that the faculty is disproportionately white; and that the curriculum alienates black students.

"In my class as a freshman, two-thirds of the faculty are white males and there are no Third World authors on my reading lists," said Papillon, who, along with other black students, stresses the need for more black professors.

Of Berkeley's 1,593 full-time faculty, 156 are minorities — 86 Asians, 34 blacks, 32 Hispanics and four Native Americans.

"They are role models. They can bring perspective of what students can expect," said Margaret Wilkerson, an associate professor in Berkeley's department of Afro-American studies. "If you don't see people who look like you

in these positions how can you expect?" to become a professor.

Administrators argue that there are just not enough potential black professors in the pipeline, but those who've made it argue that the task of becoming a professor can be intimidating to black candidates.

"It is the nature of the professoriate that when you look different, or bring in different types of research, it is harder to break the barriers," said Wilkerson.

"Most of us are old enough and have enough calluses," said W. Russell Ellis, Jr. a black professor of architecture. "But there is still some-

agony and disappointment that nothing has changed."

These situations, say black students, contribute to what they call the alienating climate of UC Berkeley.

"There's a general feeling of not belonging to the population at large," Berkeley black student Tracey Campbell said. "You can belong to the black population or get lost in the crowd. There are not that many avenues to participate on campus in general."

A campus task force concerned with the dismal rate of graduation among black students has suggested a variety of measures — some now being implemented — to improve the situation. Among the proposals are better counseling, better financial aid services, streamlined bureaucracy to reduce impediments to black students, freshman-sophomore seminars aimed at black students, and better orientation for black students.

Only 27 percent of the blacks who enter Berkeley graduate within five years — a rate less than half that of their white counterparts and slightly more than half the graduation rate of Hispanic students. In the fall of 1986, black enrollment at Berkeley was at an all-time high of 1,182 students, but black students who graduated that year numbered only 142.

The task force found that most of the dropouts occur in the junior and senior year, not at the freshman level. Black students at Berkeley are better prepared academically than ever before — the black students' Scholastic Aptitude Test scores at Berkeley are better than the national average.

# Ethnic-studies requirement unlikely, UC chief says

By John Lynn Smith  
Bee Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The president of the University of California said Friday he doubts ethnic studies will be required for graduation or that admissions policies will change to allow more Asian-American students into UC Berkeley and UCLA.

"I would be very surprised if the Academic Senate would make such a recommendation" to require ethnic studies, David P. Gardner said during an interview following his speech to the Commonwealth Club.

"I would expect that we will continue to have tensions and therefore we will also experience change," Gardner continued. "But,

as typical of change with such matters in the university, it will be very gradual."

Minority students at UC Berkeley, acting in the wake of what they said were increased cases of overt racism on campus, have renewed their call for an ethnic studies course required of all students for graduation. The recommendation is now being studied by the Academic Senate.

Instead of a requirement, Gardner said he expects the curriculum will expand in time to offer more varied courses on different cultures.

As to Asian-American enrollments, Gardner told his Commonwealth Club audience that it is UC's policy to admit students of varied backgrounds, rather than simply fill up

the freshman class with straight-A students.

Asian-Americans, who are more successful than any other racial ethnic group in gaining entry into UC, charge that the university is unfairly curtailing their enrollment in the more popular campuses of UC Berkeley and UCLA.

Overall, the nine-campus UC system takes its students from the top 12.5 percent of high-school graduates. Berkeley and UCLA, being the most popular, are also the most competitive, and Asian-Americans maintain that if students meet the numerical qualifications they should be admitted to the campus of their choice. University policy says qualified students will get in at one of the campuses, but not always their first choice.

A state auditor general's report earlier this month said in some cases qualified white students are more likely to gain access to UC Berkeley than Asian-Americans, but did not conclude that admissions policies were discriminatory. Asian-American admissions are off 25 percent since 1983, but white enrollments are down 44 percent as part of UC Berkeley's effort to lower the overall size of its freshman class.

Gardner said UC should not be defensive about admission policies that strive for a diverse class at popular campuses, even if it means rerouting qualified students and explaining to Asian-Americans that other UC campuses have something to offer, too.

"I know that our policies are disturbing to some people," said Gardner, adding that he was aware of the political and social sensitivity of dealing with race in admissions policies. But he added that it is important that UC be open about the policy to "facilitate the living together in this state of various racial and ethnic groups."

"If we we don't handle this well," he said, "there will surely be tensions in our society."

Gardner said it is critical that student bodies be racially and ethnically diverse because "that's the society they are going to live in and they might just as well start at the University of California. If it is uncomfortable, all the better."

## COVER STORY

# Foreign customs, abuse laws can clash in schools

By Shawn Hubler  
Herald staff writer

**D**ien Vinh Ta knew little English, but his battered body spoke for itself. He looked as if he had been horsewhipped, the school nurse said.

As he showered in gym class at his new school, Carson High, the welts on his back stood out in bruised relief. "Who did this to you?" asked the coach, the school nurse, the police. But the terrified boy did not understand.

Finally, they brought in a bilingual Vietnamese classmate. Van Doan took one look and smiled. Ta was the "victim" of the ancient art of *coining*, a medicinal massage

done with the serrated edge of a coin. In Ta's homeland "coining" is as common as aspirin. Here, it is a folk remedy for the exotic few.

"No one has beaten him," reported the impromptu interpreter, Doan. "It's just an old Vietnamese headache cure."

But coining — though not considered to be child abuse — creates symptoms that are reported

able as such. And the incident three weeks ago is just a small part of a big dilemma facing Los Angeles County's school administrators, social workers and police. How best to protect the civil rights of a growing number of immigrant children while respecting cultures that can differ wildly from our own?

"Coining is just one of thou-

sands of cultural issues that cause us trouble," said police Capt. Joe Santoro of Monterey Park, one of dozens of Los Angeles suburbs struggling to absorb a massive influx of immigrants and refugees.

"One of our biggest areas of concern is what to do when people come here from other countries

and continue practicing customs and traditions that may be perfectly acceptable there, but that clash with our law here."

Nowhere is the difference more pervasive, Santoro and others say,

than in cultural attitudes toward a parent's role. One country's idea of good discipline, for example, can translate into child battering here.

Child neglect charges can be — and have been — brought against foreign parents who routinely leave their children at home unattended because it was safe for them to do so in the old country. And foreign folk remedies such as coining have become the bane of school officials struggling to comply with stringent child abuse reporting laws without offending conscientious and loving immigrant parents.

Carlos Sosa, assistant director for the county Department of Children's Services, said a department survey done in April showed that in just that one month, child welfare workers had to respond to 8,704 child abuse reports in languages other than English — including 194 in Chinese, 115 in Vietnamese, 111 in Cambodian, 50 in Korean, 41 in Japanese, 17 in Tagalog, 16 in Samoan and 8,052 in Spanish. Some were legitimate cases of brutality, he said, but many were also classic examples of cultural ignorance.

"We do a very limited job of cultural awareness in Los Angeles, and the lack of bilingual social workers and doctors and police and school officials only compounds the problem," Sosa said.

Educators and police agree.

"Parents, especially first generation parents, are bringing their kids up the way they were brought up — which is the best way they know how," said Naomi Michaels, a principal of Japanese descent whose Emelita Elementary School in Encino is becoming increasingly populated with Middle Eastern children.

"But I think there's a fine line. We have to tell them, 'We aren't saying your style of parenting is wrong, but in this country there are rules everyone must follow, and you are putting yourself in jeopardy if you continue treating your child this way.'"

Marta Hernandez, a Mexican-born garment worker living in Southeast Los Angeles, learned the hard way that old-country discipline is unacceptable here. One evening, she said, she caught her 15-year-old son, Humberto, rifling

through her purse for money. A single parent with two children to feed, Hernandez relied on her \$140-a-week wages just to survive. She ordered him to leave the bag alone. The next day, she discovered all her money was gone.

Furious, she demanded the money.

"I didn't do anything," the boy lied.

So Hernandez — whose own father often beat her when she rebelled — grabbed Humberto by the ear and began to smack him with a wooden spoon.

"I hit him on a finger, and because I was so mad, I bit him on the back and drew blood," recalled the 5-foot-tall woman who, at 180 pounds, was nearly twice the size of her slim son.

"He said, 'I'm going to go to the police.' I said, 'However you want it, son.'" Later (though Hernandez would deny it was her fault), X-rays would reveal the boy's hand had been broken.

That afternoon, the police came to Hernandez's home and asked her if she had hit her son. When she said, "yes," the police took both children away and the county ordered Hernandez to get counseling.

"I didn't know it was prohibited to hit children here," said Hernandez who, despite eight years in this country, still communicates almost solely in Spanish. "In Mexico, they hit them to teach them. So they'll understand. So they'll obey. This is how they are taught to discipline — by hitting. That's how I was taught."

When the police came to her door, she never suspected she would be charged with child abuse.

"I thought something bad had happened to my son, and they were there to tell me," Hernandez said.

But her two children were placed into foster care, and even after a year and a half of parenting classes and individual counseling, Hernandez sees them only on scheduled visits. It will be some time yet before they can return home.

(18)

# Arrests of Teen Members of 'Skinhead' Faction Spell End to Spree of 'Hate Crimes,' Police Say

By MICHAEL CONNELLY, Times Staff Writer

When police officers burst through the door of Michael Casey Martin's home 10 days ago, the 18-year-old Chatsworth high school dropout was asleep in his bedroom, comfortably surrounded by the trappings of the youth gang he both founded and led.

Police said they found in Martin's room a gang photo album and newsletters, a 9-millimeter handgun and a .22-caliber rifle, a membership roster and a book that described gang rules, dress and tactics.

But the surroundings were not like those the officers had seen in connection with most youth gangs in the San Fernando Valley. Hung side by side on the wall of his bedroom were the flag of the Confederacy and the Federal Re-

public of Germany. On the nightstand next to the bed was a copy of Adolf Hitler's manifesto, "Mein Kampf." In the photo album, the pictures were of young men wearing Nazi armbands, posing in *sieg-heil* salute, according to police.

## Leader Called 'Peanut'

The newsletters and pamphlets espoused the philosophy of white supremacy and racial violence. Another book in the room, "Auschwitz: The True Story," argues that the Holocaust never took place.

Martin, known as "Peanut" by other members of the gang he named the Reich Skins, was taken in handcuffs after the raid at the two-bedroom Chatsworth home he shared with his mother. In the days

following, Los Angeles police arrested seven younger members of the gang. Police said the group, which had operated primarily in the western part of the Valley, was involved in racial terrorism activities—"hate" crimes—for four to six months before the arrests. Now, they say it has been effectively stamped out.

The Reich Skins, detectives said, are a faction of the "skinhead" youth movement, identified by its

members' shaved heads, tattoos, black boots and leather jackets. The group began in England more than a decade ago, sparked by social unrest and rock 'n' roll, but it is now an international phenomenon largely driven by Neo-Nazi philosophy and racism.

The arrests of Martin and other Reich Skins have introduced a new chapter to the book on gangs in Los Angeles, police said.

"Young people want to feel they belong somewhere," said Lt. Warren Knowles of the Los Angeles Police Devonshire Division. "But I don't know exactly how or why that feeling spins into something like this."

However they arrived at their views, the Reich Skins apparently made no effort to keep a low profile. Nazi swastikas were posted on light poles along three blocks in Chatsworth. A Latino high school boy and his family were threatened in their Granada Hills home by armed intruders chanting "white power." More swastikas were painted and literature espousing white supremacy was posted at Granada Hills High School as an initiation rite.

## About 25 Members

All of those actions and many others have been attributed by police and school officials to the Reich Skins, a group of about 25 youths in the Valley aged 14 to 20 years old.

Authorities say skinheads also exist in Orange County, particularly in Huntington Beach, where members have been known to post racist literature and graffiti. The Reich Skins, however, are believed to have committed more aggressive acts, leading police to consider them more of an immediate threat.

Martin was at the center of a handful of members responsible for most of the Reich Skin's activities, police said. Surrounding that core were several youths who apparently did not understand what they were involved in, who police said were "sucked in."

Martin has connections to a number of white power groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, National Socialist White American Party and

Aryan Alliance, police said. Some of those groups provided the literature and stickers used by the Reich Skins.

Police said the Reich Skins also had an affiliation with a national association of skinhead groups. A recent eight-page newsletter from

"Skinheads of America" describes the group's beliefs this way.

"Skinheads of America, like the dynamic Skinheads in Europe, are working class Aryan youth. We oppose the capitalist and communist scum that are destroying our race." It continues with anti-Semitic vitriol.

According to an Anti-Defamation League report on the skinheads issued Friday, the members' appearance symbolizes "tough, patriotic, anti-immigrant, working-class attitudes in contrast to the supposedly sissyish, pacifist, liberal, middle-class views of the long-hairs."

The ADL reported those same attitudes made skinheads attractive to British-based neo-Nazi groups, and the youths became targets of those groups' recruiting efforts. Eventually, it caused a philosophical fissure among the skinheads.

"This started as a rock 'n' roll thing," Knowles said. "But eventually it split into two groups—one part was into white supremacy, the other had believers in racial harmony."

According to the ADL report, skinhead groups have been identified in California in Orange County, San Francisco and San Jose. The largest U.S. group is in Chicago called Romantic Violence.

Betsy Rosenthal, ADL's Western states counsel, said the Reich Skin faction had been unknown to the League until Martin's arrest. She

said the group bears careful monitoring.

"The major threat is if this group signifies that there is a possible rise in hate activities among youth," Rosenthal said.

Detective Michael Brandt, who has headed the Reich Skins investigation, said the same split among skinhead factions that occurred in England is evident in the Valley. He said investigators have identified several "two-tone" skinhead factions or clubs—the United Skins, the Mickey Mouse Club, the Mods and the West Coast Front—that operate in the West Valley and adhere to philosophies of racial harmony.

In recent months, there have been several confrontations, fights and possibly a shooting incident between the Reich Skins and other groups clashing at local parks and shopping malls, police said.

#### 'A Definite Division'

"They started forming earlier this year," said Brandt. "There was no real organization. But it was basically one group. But then some started moving toward white pride and then to white power. Others moved away. There was a definite division. . . . When school started this year, it all heated up."

Police said most of the Reich Skins core group dropped out of high schools this year, as Martin had done the year before. Detectives said the group's activities were believed carried out almost entirely at the direction of Martin. He is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail at the Los Angeles County Jail on charges of attempted burglary and using unlawful, violent acts to effect political change. Under an obscure 1919 Criminal Syndicalism Act, he is charged with distributing the racist literature and painting the racist graffiti.

The complaint also alleges that on Oct. 7 he and a juvenile companion tried to break into the Granada Hills home of a Latino high school student. The complaint says that Martin carried a gun and yelled "white power," "down with Mexicans" and "down with blacks."

The seven juveniles arrested will face lesser charges, officials said.

Martin, who has pleaded innocent to the charges, was described by school officials as an average student who was a loner on the Chatsworth High School campus before dropping out.

Police said Martin's mother was as astonished by what her son was accused of as the parents of other

Reich Skins members and some school officials were. Some parents were surprised to find that their sons had swastika tattoos.

What the parents, school officials and investigators still find puzzling was how and why youths from mostly middle-class Valley families became aligned with such extremist views. Some question whether they truly understood the meaning of their actions.

"Knowing high school students, I would say that the affiliation is greater than their beliefs," said Jim Ball, principal of John F. Kennedy

High School in Granada Hills where officials say some Reich Skins were recruited.

Gregory Bodenhamer, a former probation officer who founded the program Back in Control in Southern California to help parents deal with incorrigible youths, said the skinhead groups are often attractive to youths who long for a sense of belonging.

Police said some of the younger members apparently realized they erred by joining but were too intimidated or frightened to quit.

"They felt they had to go along,"

said Brandt, who noted that one boy lied and said he was not Jewish in order to belong, then ran away from home when he feared members had discovered his background.

Police said the arrests of the core members, particularly of Martin, have ended any threat from the group.

"Martin was the crux of this," Brandt said. "With him in jail, we've buried the Reich Skins for now. The others have secreted themselves back into the woodwork."



# House panel OKs bill to study 'hate crimes' after debate on gays

By Jeff Jackson  
STATES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A House panel approved legislation Tuesday that would require the government to gather statistics on "hate crimes," despite efforts by conservatives to derail the measure because it identifies gays as targets of prejudice.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the Hate Crimes Statistics Act by a vote of 21-13, with most Republicans opposing the measure. The vote followed heated debate from lawmakers including Rep. Patrick Swindall, R-Ga., who said

the law would help "normalize" homosexuality and violate the "organic laws of our nation" regarding sexual practice.

The legislation would require the Justice Department to collect and publish data about crimes motivated by prejudice against a person's race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

A broad coalition of civil-rights groups supports the measure, which was first introduced in 1985. But its passage has been stymied by lawmakers who oppose the sexual-orientation provision and by Justice Department officials who have raised a variety of technical objections.

**'Such data  
would be very  
useful... to  
combat these  
offenses'**

— Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich.

Supporters of the measure are skeptical that it will pass both chambers of Congress any time soon.

The measure approved Tuesday was sponsored by Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., who said hate crimes

were increasing at an "alarming" rate.

"There are at present no comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date statistics kept on the national incidence of hate crimes," he said. "Such data would be very useful to law-enforcement organizations and communities seeking to combat these offenses."

A series of recent reports by civil-rights groups have pointed to an increase in hate crimes:

- A study last year by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force indicated that one in five gay men and nearly one in 10 lesbians had been physically assaulted because

of their sexuality.

- A report issued this year by the Jewish Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith identified the emergence of an organized "hate movement" that has fostered criminal activity by right-wing extremists against a variety of minority and religious groups. The report charges that there have been more hate crimes committed in the past three years than over the past two decades.

- The Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal is slated to issue a report in November that will document at least 2,000 incidents of hate crimes, including assault, bombing, murder and arson, from

1980 through 1986.

Tuesday's session became heated when Rep. George Gekas, R-Pa., offered an amendment to delete the measure's provision on crimes against gays. He was backed by Swindall, who took the floor three times to protest the provision.

"This bill is unjust because it violates the law — the natural law of our nation," Swindall declared. "What could be more unnatural than the homosexual act?"

Committee member Rep. Barney Franks, a Massachusetts Democrat who is gay, said after the session that Swindall is "bizarre."

## The Survivalist Threat

On a warm evening in June 1984 Alan Berg drove up to his Denver home. As he stepped from his Volkswagen Beetle, an assassin fired 13 rounds from an automatic pistol, killing him instantly. Berg was murdered because he was Jewish and because, as the host of a radio talk show, he taunted and ridiculed Ku Klux Klanners, neo-Nazis and others who love to hate. Finally, one of these Neanderthal groups determined to reply to Berg's jibes in the only way that would not bring a humiliating rebuttal.

According to investigative journalist James Coates, it was the Berg murder that revealed that our nation is host to a network of dangerous hate groups. In *Armed and Dangerous: The Rise of the Survivalist Right* (Hill & Wang, \$17.95) Coates documents the rise of violent, right-wing hate groups known as survivalists.

Survivalists are a motley lot, but they have in common the belief that the Jewish people are in league with Satan and are bent on the destruction of gentiles in general and white American gentiles in particular. Toward this end, Jewish bankers and other sinister forces have taken control of the U.S. government, which the survivalists call ZOG for Zionist Occupational Government. ZOG is conspiring to drive the nation into economic ruin, and after it has done so it will lead us into a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. This inevitable holocaust, the Armageddon of the Bible, will destroy nearly everyone except a few chosen people, who will survive in the hinterland and go on to establish a new white society.

The conspiratorial litany varies from survivalist to survivalist, but the underlying message is the same: Whites are under attack and must rise up to fight a guerrilla war against Jews, blacks, Hispanics, Catholics, homosexuals, AIDS victims, secular humanists, atheists, Shriners—there is no end of people to hate when you're a survivalist. Coates documents the hatred and the violence of the Ku Klux Klan, Identity Christians, Posse Comitatus, "com-

pound dwellers" and loners such as Don and Dan Nichols.

The Nicholises were a father-and-son team who lived like 18th-century mountain men in the Montana wilderness. They decided to create a new tribe, and toward that end they kidnapped Kari Swenson, a young woman who was training for the Olympic biathlon. In the process, they managed to injure Swenson seriously and to kill one of her rescuers.

The Nicholises are not the worst of the survivalists. Coates provides numerous examples of horrific violence done in the name of racial pride. Michael Ryan, for example, headed a kind of commune in tiny Rulo, Nebraska. There he forced the men in his clan to sodomize one another and a pet goat while he slept with their wives, mothers and daughters. On his orders, a defector was sodomized with greased shovels, had his fingertips shot off with pistols, had one arm and both legs broken and had flesh removed from his legs with a razor and a pair of pliers.

Such brutality is not the only product of survivalist thinking, nor is it the greatest threat to our society. Survivalists have bombed school buildings, robbed armored cars, counterfeited money and threatened government officeholders whose views they oppose. Some of them have made a business of spreading the survivalist creed.

They sell audiotapes and videotapes extolling the virtues of the Ku Klux Klan, for example, and run workshops at which survivalists learn a variety of skills, from how to poison a city's water supply to how to avoid paying taxes.

There is no telling how many people are survivalists or how many more agree with survivalism's basic premises, but Coates is convincing when he argues that far more people are hearing the Survival Right sales pitch than most Americans realize, and he is disturbingly correct when he asks, "How many are buying it?"

An even more disturbing question is, how many will be won over by the survivalist madness if there is an economic crisis? Coates reports that a Harris poll of people in Iowa and Nebraska found that 27 percent agreed that "farmers have always been exploited by international Jewish bankers." Forty-four percent of those without high school diplomas endorsed the statement. If the Survival Right has a foothold during these relatively good times, it is conceivable that they will gain political control of the country if we fall upon really hard times. As Christ said as he was taken away to his crucifixion, "For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

—PAUL CHANCE



ILLUSTRATION: MIRKO ILIC

# OPINION

Editor-  
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## Hateful behavior

Ask a majority of people if racism is alive in present-day California, and they will say that it disappeared with the Civil Rights movement. Ask Rudy and Yvonne Fox and their three children, and they will tell you that racism continues to rear its ugly head, this time in their own back yard.

The Foxes returned from a day's outing last Sunday to find the charred remains of their Sacramento home. On a detached storage shed among the ashes and melted momentos, they also found a Nazi swastika and this spray-painted epithet: "Next time you'll listen, nigger."

Neighbors report that the Foxes' house burned to the ground within minutes following a pre-dawn blast. Upon investigation, the Sacramento Police Department's arson team concluded that the blaze was intentionally set using gasoline and matches. The arson follows a series of anonymous, threatening telephone calls made to

the Foxes over a period of three months.

Unfortunately, the injustice done to the Fox family is hardly an isolated incident. In August, a Sacramento man who founded a neo-Nazi, white supremacist group and then left it had his throat slit and was nailed to a board, presumably by his former followers. In January, a cross was burned outside a nightclub popular with blacks in Plumas County. And locally, a white supremacist group calling itself the Phoenix Movement sends mailers to homes, denouncing Jews and promoting the "Brotherhood of Aryar Nations."

The party or parties responsible for torching the Fox home must be found and prosecuted. While it is accurate to say that this kind of behavior is despicable, condemnation is hardly adequate. We must say that it is intolerable, and further, our actions must demonstrate that we cannot, and will not, accept such behavior.

Chief Editor Tracey Renault  
Eric Reyes





Office of the Attorney General — John K. Van de Kamp

# News Release

Sam Haynes  
Information Officer

(916) 324-5439  
1515 K Street, Suite 511  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Los Angeles Press Contact  
(213) 736-2298  
3580 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Contact: Duane Peterson  
Press Secretary  
(213) 736-2298

January 20, 1988

LOS ANGELES--Attorney General John Van de Kamp today announced the completion of his office's investigation into the harassment of the Dufau family which was forced to flee its Westchester home following racist threats and vandalism last year.

Evidence gathered during the investigation would not support criminal charges, but would allow a civil action under the Ralph Civil Rights Act against a juvenile who has a history of mental instability. Because of his age, the juvenile suspect will not be identified.

"This closes an ugly case of racial harassment," Van de Kamp said, "and I am glad that Robson and Tori Dufau know that this ordeal is over so they can get on with their lives."

Under the terms of an agreement reached with the juvenile and his father, Van de Kamp has agreed not to file a civil lawsuit against the juvenile provided that he continues to receive psychiatric treatment for a period of 18 months. The Attorney General's office will monitor the juvenile's treatment during that period.

The Dufaus have been notified of the disposition of the case and support its resolution.

"This was a very difficult case to resolve," Van de Kamp said. "The Dufau family suffered from the acts committed by this troubled young man. But I hope the Dufaus are comforted that no organized hate group was involved in this case and that the responsible person has been identified and is being treated," Van de Kamp added.

"This case should serve as a warning to others who may be thinking about engaging in similar acts of racial harassment that this kind of conduct will not be tolerated," Van de Kamp said. "The necessary resources were assigned until this case was solved. We stand ready to investigate any such future cases until the perpetrators are tracked down and held accountable for their action," he added.

The case was handled by the Attorney General's Civil Rights Section and Bureau of Investigations.

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